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## REMARKS

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants' gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-5, 11-23, and 25 recite allowable subject matter.

### Amendments

Claim 1 is amended above to recite "at least 20% by weight," as requested by the Examiner, and further amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 5, now cancelled. Claim 3 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 12, 18 and 21 are amended to depend from claims 14, 17 and 20, respectively. Also, claim 25 is amended to delete the reference to specific monomers for monomer B. In addition, claim 13 is canceled, and, finally, claim 22 is canceled and replaced by new claim 26.

### Rejection Under 35 USC §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph

With respect to the recitation of "water insoluble monomers," it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the degree of water insolubility needed for these monomers is that which would permit the suspension polymerization to proceed with the formation of a dispersed phase of ethylenically unsaturated monomers which comprise at least one monomer A and at least one monomer B.

In any event, to further prosecution, claim 13 is canceled and the recitation of specific monomers for monomer B in claim 25 has been deleted. In addition, new claim 26, which replaces old claim 22, does not recite a list of specific monomers for monomer B.

In claim 2, monomer A is said to be selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, monoalkyl itaconates, monoalkyl maleates, citraconic acid and styrenecarboxylic acid monomers. Thus, "styrenecarboxylic" refers to one of the monomers within the group. As such, it refers to a monomer of styrene exhibiting a carboxylic acid, i.e., vinylbenzoic acid. It is respectfully submitted that when claim 2 is read in context, the meaning of "styrenecarboxylic" is sufficiently clear to one of ordinary skill in the art.

With regards to claim 22, the objected to language was introduced by inadvertent typographical errors. Compare the version of claim 22 presented in the Preliminary Amendment of January 29, 2001, and the version of claim 22 presented in the Amendment of August 21, 2001. In order to clarify the situation, claim 22 is canceled and replaced by new claim 26. The latter does not contain the language objected to in the rejection.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claims are more than sufficiently definite to one of ordinary skill in the art. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



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**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 5, 13 and 22.

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. A process for making polymeric particles comprising:

Polymerizing ethylenically unsaturated monomers as a dispersed phase suspended in an aqueous phase,

wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomers comprise at least one monomer A and at least one monomer B, wherein monomer A is a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer containing a carboxylic acid group and monomer B is a water-insoluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer,

said aqueous phase containing a water-insoluble particulate stabilizer having a size of less than 100 nm and an effective amount of water-soluble inorganic salt to allow formation of stable monomer droplets in the aqueous phase, said monomer droplets comprising at least 20% by weight of said carboxylic acid containing monomer A, wherein the water-soluble inorganic salt present in the aqueous phase is in a concentration of from 10% to 50% by weight.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid containing monomer is selected from the group consisting of ~~an~~ acrylic acid and a methacrylic acid.

4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble particulate stabilizer comprises colloidal silica.

11. The process according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble inorganic salt is aluminum nitrate, aluminum sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, barium nitrate, borax, calcium chloride, calcium nitrate, calcium sulfate, diammonium

sulfate, disodium phosphate, magnesium chloride, magnesium nitrate, magnesium sulfate, potassium chloride, sodium acetate, sodium carbonate, sodium chloride, sodium metaborate, sodium nitrate, sodium sulfate, trisodium phosphate, zinc chloride, zinc nitrate, or zinc sulfate.

12. The process according to claim 11 6, wherein said water-soluble inorganic salt is sodium chloride or potassium chloride.

18. The process according to claim 17 42, wherein said promoter is polydiethanolamine.

21. The process according to claim 20 45, wherein said polymerization inhibitor is potassium dichromate or cupric sulfate pentahydrate.

25. The process according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble inorganic salt is aluminum nitrate, aluminum sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, barium nitrate, borax, calcium chloride, calcium nitrate, calcium sulfate, diammonium sulfate, disodium phosphate, magnesium chloride, magnesium nitrate, magnesium sulfate, potassium chloride, sodium acetate, sodium carbonate, sodium chloride, sodium metaborate, sodium nitrate, sodium sulfate, trisodium phosphate, zinc chloride, zinc nitrate, or zinc sulfate;

said monomer A is acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, monomethyl itaconate, monoethyl itaconate, monobutyl itaconate, monomethyl maleate, monoethyl maleate, monobutyl maleate, or citraconic acid; and

~~said monomer B is methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, hexyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, lauryl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate,~~

~~nonyl acrylate, benzyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylamide, methacrylamide, vinyl, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinylidene chloride, vinyl chloride, styrene, t-butyl styrene, ethyl vinyl benzene, vinyl toluene, allyl methacrylate, allyl acrylate, butenyl acrylate, undecenyl acrylate, undecenyl methacrylate, vinyl acrylate, vinyl methacrylate, butadiene, isoprene, ethylene glycol diacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, triethylene glycol dimethacrylate, 1,4-butanediol dimethacrylate, 1,3-butanediol dimethacrylate, divinyl benzene, trimethyl propane trimethacrylate, pentaerythritol tetramethacrylate or mixtures thereof; and~~

said water-insoluble particulate stabilizer is a resinous polymer.--